



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

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**Testimony of LeAnn R. Power, CRM
Public Records Administrator
Connecticut State Library
Concerning Senate Bill 1234**

**"An Act Concerning Nondisclosure of Residential Addresses of Certain Public Officials
and Employees"
Judiciary Committee – Public Hearing
April 8, 2011**

The Connecticut State Library, Office of the Public Records Administrator submits this statement regarding Proposed Bill 1234, which prohibits the disclosure of the residential addresses of certain public officials and employees. If passed, SB1234 would severely undermine the integrity of public records in Connecticut.

Connecticut is a state that has historically been interested in the preservation of its public archives and the protection of its public records. Connecticut law has always protected the integrity of the public record. CGS § 11-8 and CGS § 7-24 specifically mention the preservation and safekeeping of public records.

The General Assembly hired Sylvester Judd of North Hampton, Massachusetts in 1841 to organize and index Connecticut's early colonial and State records up to the year 1820. Subsequently and to this day, the records are known as the "Connecticut Archives."

In 1871 the General Assembly directed all town clerks to make copies of "manuscript volumes of town records, containing entries of deeds, town votes, wills, or judicial proceedings made prior to ... 1700" on blank books furnished by the State Librarian. It also directed town clerks to transfer the completed books to the State Librarian on or before July 4, 1871.

Redacting or altering information from original public records is in violation of CGS 1-240 and CGS 53-153. Also, it is important to note that many permanent public records have been microfilmed to protect the information in the event the original records are damaged. I also have concerns about how the municipalities would implement the proposed bill and what the potential costs would be to them.

The Connecticut State Library, Office of the Public Records Administrator would be pleased to work with the Judiciary Committee, legislators, and other agencies involved to create a more balanced proposal which will ensure the integrity of the land records and other essential public records, while doing the best we can to protect those who serve our municipal, state and federal governments.

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